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DR. SVEN HEDIN'S LATEST JOURNEY IN CENTRAL ASIA,
1899-1902.

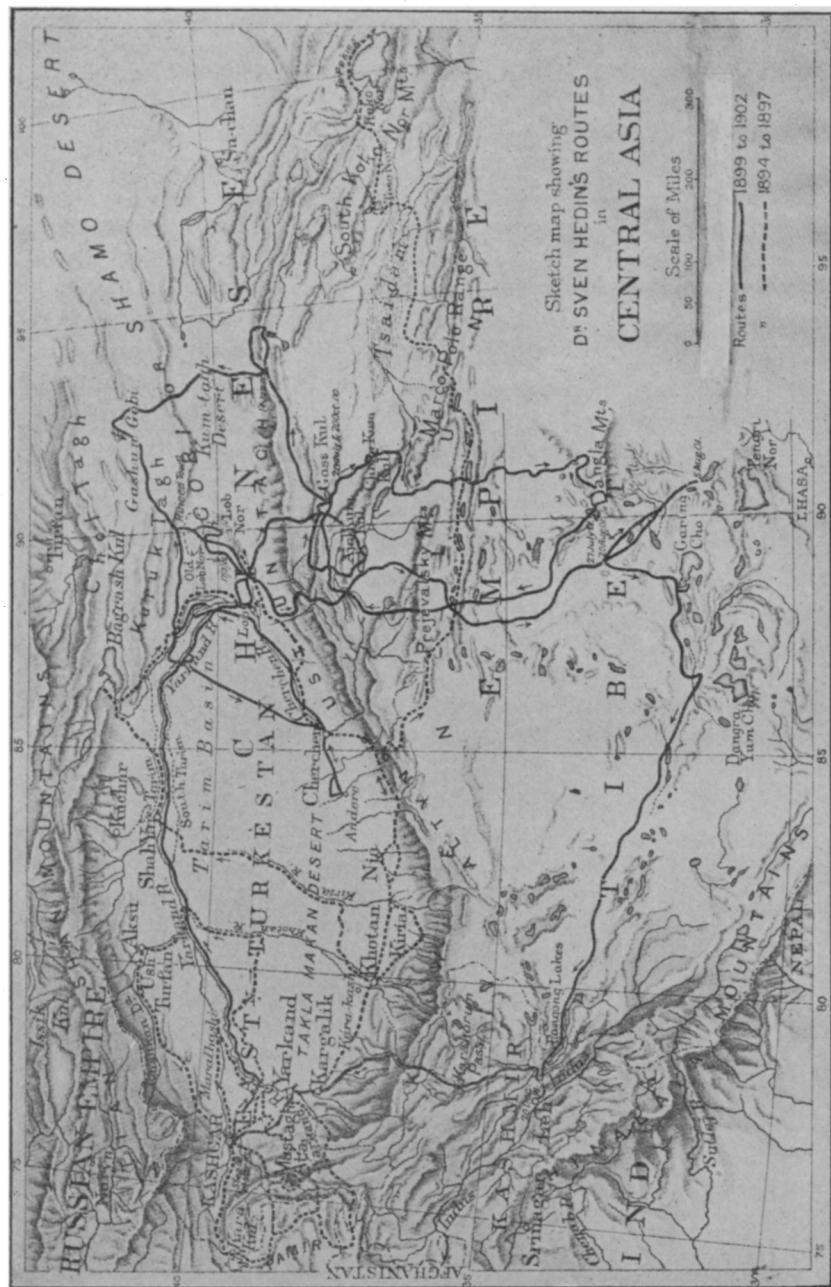
The *Geographical Journal* (Sept., 1902) publishes the map which is here reproduced. It shows the regions in which Dr. Sven Hedin carried out his thorough explorations in Central Asia in 1894-97 and 1899-1902. It is printed here especially to show the regions he traversed on his second expedition of 1899-1902. Dr. Hedin wrote for the *Geographical Journal* a summary of the results of this very remarkable journey, from which the following facts are taken.

He mapped the Tarim or Yarkand River from the environs of Yarkand to its lower extremity near Lob Nor. The map covers about 100 sheets on a scale of 1:35,000, or about a half mile to an inch. Every name given to the stream was recorded, every channel was mapped, and the diverse characteristics of the country adjacent to the banks were all noted and plotted on the map. Material was thus gathered for a minutely-detailed monograph upon the course of the Tarim and the conditions which characterize this greatest river in Central Asia.

The part of the Gobi desert between the lower Tarim and the Cherchen-Daria, which had never been visited before, was crossed from Karaul to Tatran (north of Cherchen), and was found to differ in conformation from the desert of Takla-makan, explored by Dr. Hedin on his first journey. The sand, which is heaped up in dunes sometimes to a height of over 300 feet, is not continuous, but is interrupted by tracts of perfectly level soil, entirely destitute of sand. In the southern parts of the desert, where patches of tamarisk and reeds were occasionally met, water could be obtained by digging six or seven feet.

The lower course of the Tarim, between Yanghi-kull and Karakoshun, is very intricate. The country is so flat that the current is continually seeking new channels. The Chinese, who had built settlements on the river banks, were in danger of being deserted by the stream, and the inhabitants were considering the advisability of building dams to retain the water.

The tendency of the Tarim to form lateral or marginal lakes begins as high up as Yanghi-kull. Between Yanghi-kull and Arghan the right bank is accompanied by a chain of long lakes bordered by sterile sands, with sand dunes as much as 300 feet or more in height. The sand dunes turn their steep side towards the west,



while on the east they mount more gradually to the summit. This arrangement is due to winds from the east.

The position of Lob Nor is now solved. The ancient historical Lob Nor is situated where Richthofen believed it had been discovered, but its basin is now dried up. On its northern shore Hedin found ruins of towns, settlements, and temples, as well as a number of manuscripts, letters of local origin, and tablets of tamarisk wood bearing Chinese script and dating from 264 to 465 A.D. He also discovered on the shore of the ancient lake unmistakable indications of a great caravan route. His precise levellings, covering the whole of the lake basin, showed conclusively that the former Lob Nor and the present Kara-koshun lie practically at the same level, and are separated only by a slight rise of ground. Kara-koshun shows a decided tendency to return to its former situation—a large lake to the north of it, a journey around which required four days.

The mountain chain of Astyn-tagh (Ustun-tagh on the map), from the meridian of Charklik to Anambar-ula, proves to be a double one, not single, as shown on our maps.

Dr. Hedin's work included three journeys into or through Tibet. His first expedition (July–October, 1900) was from Mandarlik due south as far as $33^{\circ} 45'$ N. Lat., thence northwest, north, and northeast to his starting-point. A large part of the caravan, including one man, perished under the incredible hardships encountered in these lofty regions. Various mountain chains were crossed, and the orographical structure of the Kwen-lun and the complicated mountain system of northern Tibet were cleared up. The positions of a large number of salt and fresh water lakes were determined; the greatest depth measured was $157\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The topographical results of this journey were embodied in a map of 150 sheets.

The second expedition started from the same base. Its object was to complete the mapping of northern Tibet, especially of the mountains to the north of Kum-kull. This lake, also, was sounded. These Tibetan lakes are dangerous to navigate in a small open sailing boat.

Dr. Hedin's principal and longest journey through Tibet began at Charklik on May 17th, 1901. His route from Charklik to India is shown on the map. With two attendants, and in disguise, the explorer made a perilous journey as far as the neighbourhood of Tengri Nor, where the emissaries of the Dalai Lama compelled him to return to his caravan. A second attempt to penetrate south from the same camping-place was frustrated at Sellisy-tso by a

force of 500 horsemen. He then went westward to Leh, the journey costing the lives of two men and almost all his animals. The results of this last journey in Tibet are recorded on the map of 370 sheets.

In this great series of explorations Dr. Hedin lifted the veil that has hidden vast stretches of the mountainous and desert regions in the heart of Asia. His cartographic material includes 1,149 sheets, controlled by 114 astronomical determinations of place, in making which he used an alt-azimuth theodolite and three chronometers. His meteorological observations were recorded without interruption; he took over 2,000 photographs, and brought home considerable collections illustrating especially geology, archæology, and the fauna. He is now engaged in writing a popular description of his work; the scientific results will be published later.